

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 OMB-01 /093 W

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R 311300Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5371

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 2585

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SS, FR

SUBJECT: SAHARA: POLISARIO RELEASES FRENCH PRISONERS

REF: (A) ALGIERS 2298, (B) ALGIERS 2355 (NOTAL)

1. ALGERIAN PRESS HAS ANNOUNCED THAT, ON OCT 27, POLISARIO RELEASED TWO FRENCH NATIONALS, PIERRE SEGURO AND JEAN-PAUL DIEF, IT HAD CAPTURED IN SAHARA ON DECEMBER 23 OF LAST YEAR. SEGURO AND DIEF WERE EMPLOYED IN MOROCCO UNDER FRENCH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AT TIME OF THEIR CAPTURE, AND POLISARIO ALLEGED THEY HAD BEEN TRAVELING IN SAHARA IN MOROCCAN MILITARY CONVOY. TWO MEN WERE TURNED OVER TO MR. CHAYET, DESCRIBED AS DIRECTOR FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS IN FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY. REP OF FRENCH RED CROSS ALSO PRESENT. ON THEIR RETURN TO FRANCE, TWO MEN WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT GISCARD, ACCORDING TO PRESS.

2. TRANSFER OF PRISONERS TOOK PLACE AMID CONSIDERABLE FANFARE AT A POLISARIO REFUGEE CAMP NEAR TINDOUF. IN ADDITION TO SAHRAOUI REPUBLIC INFO MINISTER OULD SALEK, ALGERIAN
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RED CRESCENT DIRECTOR AND SECY GEN PAYOT OF INTERNATIONAL

LEAGUE FOR RIGHTS OF MAN MADE SPEECHES. OULD SALEK
PRAISED FRENCH PEOPLE'S SUPPORT FOR SAHRAOUI CAUSE AND
CALLED ON GOF TO STOP ARMING MOROCCANS AND MAURITANIANS.
PAYOT, WHOSE ORGANIZATION BECOMING SOMETHING OF POLISARIO
STALKING HORSE, CASTIGATED RABAT AND NOUAKCHOTT AND
CALLED FOR SAHRAOUI INDEPENDENCE.

3. COMMENT: GOF INVOLVEMENT IN PRISONER RELEASE SOMEWHAT
GREATER THAN FRENCH EMBASSY HERE PREDICTED IT WOULD BE
(ALGIERS 2298). (WE UNDERSTAND THAT CHAYET EMBARRASSED BY HAVING TO
BE PRESENT AT POLISARIO PROPAGANDA FIELD DAY.) GISCARD'S REPORTED
RECEPTION OF TWO MEN ALSO SUGGESTS THAT FRENCH ATTACHED SOME
POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO RELEASE.PARKER

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